

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Austria
SUBJECT The Soviet Spratzern Camp
near St. Poelten

REPORT

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REFERENCES

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Enclosure: 1 report (4 pages)

To: Army

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Form No. 51-61, January 1953

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AUSTRIAN/RUSSIAN ZONE

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MILITARY

THE 'SPRATZERN' CAMP

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Situation

2. The camp is situated just West of the main road leading South from SANKT POELTEN, and approx 1 km. south of the railway main road intersection.

Description.

3. Perimeter: a) The camp measures 400 m by 300/350m and is surrounded by a barbed wire fence.

b) There are 5 gates, 3 on the main road and the other 2 at the NW and SW corners. (See sketch at Appendix "A") Gate "A" is the main gate, most traffic passing through it, and a guard house is situated there. Gate "B" also has a guard house.

c) Troops entering on foot have to produce their identity papers to the sentries at the gate. Sentries are posted as indicated at Appendix "A". They have black shoulder-boards with red piping.

d) No civilians are allowed to stop when passing the camp along the main-road. Should they do so, the sentries hurry them on.

e) There are eight wooden masts, each between 10 and 15 metres in height, situated near the fence. (See appx "A"). Each mast has^a metallic object shaped like an aircraft on top of it. There is a wire leading to the ground from the top of each mast.

Interior

4. a) There are 4 rows of wooden huts inside the camp. Each hut is 50 metres (approx) long and 10 m. (approx) broad.

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b) Near the SW corner are 4 open sheds, shiny metal roofs supported by wooden beams. Approx 20 tanks were parked in these sheds. They were T 34's

c) No guns were seen in the camp.

5. General

a) The only shoulder-board colours seen were black, and black with red piping.

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c) On 22nd August, 53 a 4-wheeled armoured car was parked next to the petrol point at the camp.

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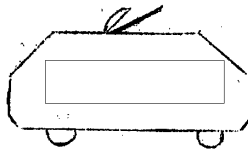
A small calibre gun barrel protruded from the driver's seat. On 23rd August, 53 at 1600 hrs this car and armoured cars

left the camp, and drove along the main road in the direction of SANKT POELTEN.

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The armoured cars were slightly longer than a Jeep and about 3 metres high, on the roof was an open lid. A gun barrel, cal. about 1.5 cms, protruded from underneath the lid. The part of the barrel seen was about 1m long.

Sketch:



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6. Tank Training Area Some open fields adjoin the camp to the West. Several targets in the shape of tanks are situated about 500 metres NW of the camp. This area generally bears many tank tracks, but no training took place during the period of the report. It was possible to walk on the foot-path leading diagonally across this area.

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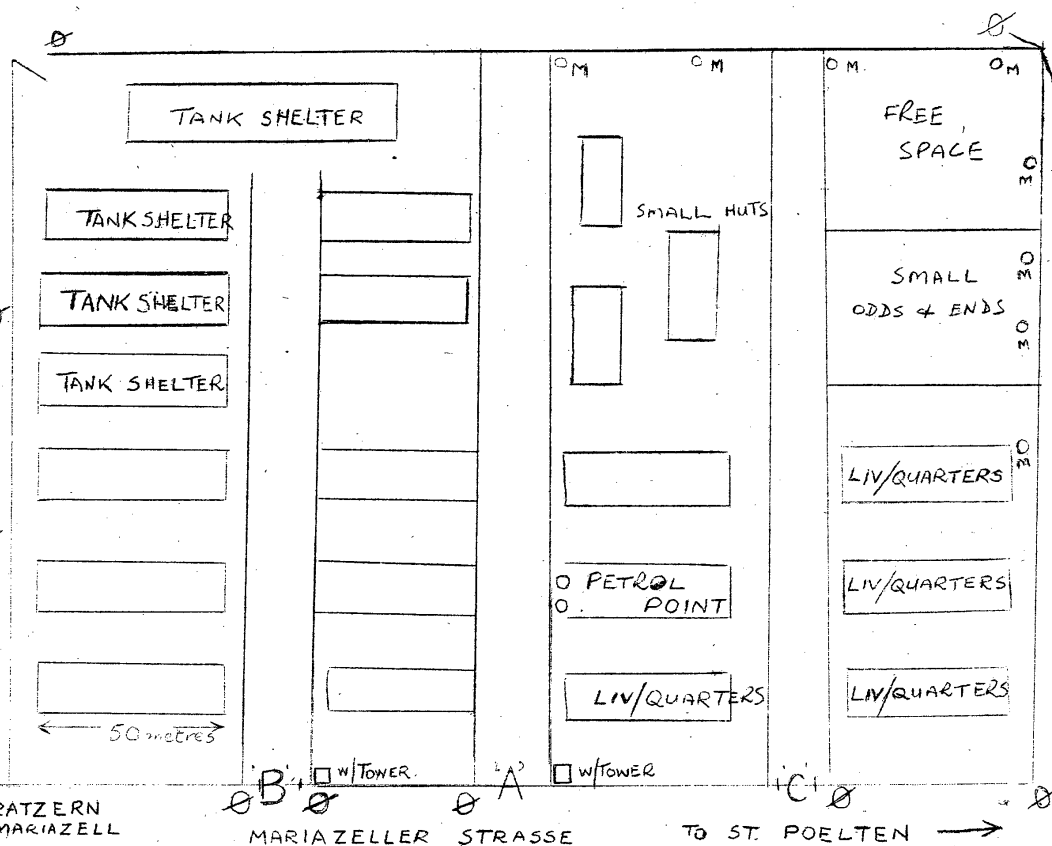
7. A hill-top about 500 metres SW of the camp and some 20 metres higher than the camp level affords a good view of this 'tank' area. It is not known whether sentries are posted on this hill when training takes place.

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THE SPRATZERN CAMP

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LEGEND

- ⊗ = SENTRY
- M = MAST
- 'A' = MAIN GATE
- 'B' = B GATE
- 'C' = C GATE

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